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CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO. 25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 10 June 1955

SUBJECT FDGB Attempts to Attract West German Workers

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted] 25X1

1. Under the auspices of the Trade-Union Unity Department of the FDGB Bundesvorstand, meetings are being held in all East German production ministries in order to make plans to provide jobs and housing for West German workers who wish to settle in East Germany. Particular attention is being given to making apprenticeships available to young West Germans. Whereas this work has been going on for some time, the FDGB Bundesvorstand is now extremely anxious to systematize procedures and to create a backlog of qualified West German workers and apprentices who can be called upon to fill unoccupied positions in East Germany. In order to carry this program out, the Bundesvorstand has decreed that meetings between employees of its Trade-Union Unity Department and appropriate employees of the various ministries shall be held every four weeks until the program is working smoothly. Then such meetings will be held every two months.

2. On 21 March 1955, in the Central Department for Labor of the Ministry for Machine Construction a meeting was held between representatives of the Ministry and of the Trade-Union Unity Department of the FDGB Bundesvorstand. Erich Wirth, member of the SED Central Committee and Central Department Head in the Ministry for Machine Construction, was chairman of the meeting. Among those in attendance were the following employees of the Ministry:

a. Thiel (fnu) (SED), Main Administration of Ship Building

b. Huth (fnu) (SED), Main Administration of Ship Building

c. Fiskohl (fnu) (SED), Oberreferent in an unspecified Main Administration

d. Wegener (fnu), Main Administration of Cable and Apparatus Construction

The following employees of the FDGB Bundesvorstand also participated:

a. Wagner (fnu), Department for Mass Production (sic)

b. Helmer (fnu) (SED), Department for Trade-Union Unity

c. Weber (fnu) (SED), Department for Trade-Union Unity

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3. Warth is charged with the task of finding jobs for West Germans in the plants responsible to the Ministry for Machine Construction. The employees of the Ministry told the FDGB employees which factories were in need of specialists. Among the enterprises mentioned which had shortages of skilled labor and which could employ West German workers were the following:

a. VEB Schiffsbau-Schiffselektrik Rostock; Director: Knoth (fnu)

b. Kranzlauer Eisenwerk; Director: Marinke (fnu)

c. Elektroinstallation Ruhla; Director: Seidel (fnu)

d. Konstruktion zur Entwicklung von Textilbetrieben; Karl-Marx-Stadt. Director: Lang (fnu)[2].

4. The representatives of the FDGB Bundesvorstand noted the number and type of openings and reported these to their offices. From leaders of West German workers'[3] delegations in East Germany and from FDGB Trade-Union Unity instructors returning from West Germany, the Bundesvorstand compiles the names and addresses of individual workers who have expressed a willingness to re-settle in East Germany. As soon as a West German worker has consented to come to East Germany and to work in a plant, the FDGB Bundesvorstand approaches the Council of the Kreis in which the prospective position is located and requests that housing be procured for the individual concerned. Requests for housing for such West German workers are given priority treatment and, despite the current shortage, as a rule such individuals receive housing as soon as they come to East Germany.

1. [redacted] Comment: Although there is no indication in this report that the reasons for this increased interest in West German workers stems from anything other than a shortage of skilled labor in some fields in East Germany, it is possible that the East German government is expecting a larger influx of West Germans who wish to take advantage of the East German offer of asylum from military service in the Federal Republic. 25X1

2. [redacted] Comment: This is a so-called "intelligentsia enterprise" which is only looking for engineer personnel. 25X1

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